UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

SEVENTEENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Official Records

AD HOC COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 20 February 1989
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/S-17/AC.1/SR.1
27 February 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

90-55190 2366S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the decision adopted by the General Assembly at the first plenary meeting of its seventeenth special session, the three Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee would serve in the same capacities in the Ad Hoc Committee.

2. Mr. Adjoyi (Togo), Mr. Luna (Peru) and Mr. Razali (Malaysia) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

3. Mr. Oleinik (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

GENERAL DEBATE

4. Mr. DINKINS (Mayor of New York City) said that the people of New York were fully committed to the United Nations and to what it stood for, and felt especially honoured to host the current special session of the General Assembly devoted to the international aspects of a problem - the drug problem - about whose impact they knew all too much. He wished to take the opportunity of addressing the session to convey to the international community the cry for help of the children of New York, who were the first to suffer from the drug scourge as the following statistics showed: testing of newborns in some New York hospitals had revealed that up to 20 per cent of newborns tested positive for illicit drugs; with maternal drug use a contributing factor to low birth weight in newborns, the proportion of low birth weight infants had increased by 10 per cent in the past decade; normal weight babies born to drug-using mothers had more than triple the risk of dying within their first year; and the number of babies who had tested positive for drugs in 1989 had been 14 per cent higher than in 1988 and 268 per cent higher than in 1986.

5. The problem was especially disturbing because today's physical and psychological wounds would become tomorrow's social and economic scars. Studies had shown and the press had reported how the tragic circumstances in which the children of addicted mothers were born, led to grave personality disorders and to serious difficulties in relating to the world and, later, in developing to adulthood.

6. The city's health care system and school system must be completely overhauled in order to deal with the crisis of its children and young people. Currently, there was only one residential drug treatment programme that served young mothers with their children. Not only was there an overall shortage of drug treatment programmes, but pregnant women were often automatically excluded.

7. New York City was determined to tackle the problem head-on. It had decided to expand drug treatment services and to commit the necessary funding to create 21,000 treatment slots over the next five years. That long-term effort formed part of a

comprehensive anti-drug strategy for which any input was welcome, particularly an international dialogue that enabled countries to share their experiences.

8. Progress, however, depended on tackling the underlying problem, which was a failure of conscience: society must renew its sense of values. That would require tough law enforcement, effective treatment and, most of all, an educational effort that went beyond the schools.

9. The years since the founding of the United Nations had seen remarkable changes in international culture. Ideas that half a century earlier had seemed utopian were now the norms of international society, thanks to the United Nations and the power of international co-operation. Although the scourge of drugs seemed insurmountable, the international community could, by working together, turn the world's drug challenge into its next victory.

10. Mr. DI GENNARO (Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC)) said that the preparation of a global programme of action responded to the clearly perceived need to find a global solution to the international problem of drug abuse and trafficking.

11. UNFDAC's participation in that common effort was of special significance, since it was responsible for providing the developing countries with the necessary technical assistance in that area.

12. In anticipation of the formulation of a global strategy, UNFDAC had designed and conducted its programme along strategic lines, with the assistance of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and major donors and recipient countries. On that basis, it had elaborated a medium-term plan of action, and it therefore welcomed the fact that the entire international community was now to be directly involved in the design of a global programme of action.

13. Now that the Preparatory Committee, guided by the work done at the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, had successfully identified the objectives of such a programme, decisions must be taken on who was to take the action, and when, and what means would be made available: in other words, priorities must be set.

14. In order to reconcile possible divergent views on the roles of multilateral and bilateral assistance, the function of UNFDAC must also be clearly defined with reference to the need to strengthen United Nations machinery.

15. The document entitled "UNFDAC Contribution to the Design of a Global Programme of Action" contained the Fund's contribution to the strategic aspect of the global programme, which was based on its long experience in the field.

16. Since it was unrealistic to expect the current session to devote sustained attention to the financial aspects of the global programme, he assumed that Member States would agree to establish a mechanism for that purpose. That could be a

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(Mr. Di Gennaro)

group of experts appointed to develop the programme further, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 44/141. Otherwise, the General Assembly might wish to consider requesting UNFDAC to perform that task, since it had some fund-raising experience. In its experience, no major progress was possible without the full support of the General Assembly. If the special session concluded its work by addressing a strong appeal to the generosity of Governments and parliaments, however, a breakthrough might be achieved in the war against drug abuse and trafficking.

17. Miss ANSTEE (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Co-ordinator of all United Nations Drug-Control Related Activities) said that the special session was to prepare a global programme of action at a time when conditions were particularly favourable: never before had there been such widespread concern and such an opportunity at the highest political level to face the problem of drug abuse honestly, realistically and decisively. States had finally accepted their shared responsibility, clearing away one of the last obstacles to effective action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

18. A global plan of action already existed as a result of the 1987 Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control agreed on by the 138 participating States.

19. The international drug abuse control system had evolved over the past 65 years. Recently, funding organizations with a broader development perspective had associated themselves with the various entities that were mandated to carry out activities in that area both within and outside the United Nations system.

20. The United Nations system could take credit for a number of advances in the international struggle against drug abuse. Particular achievements included the fostering of international co-operation by developing an international legal framework, shaping international public opinion and facilitating the exchange of experience among States and the provision of operational assistance.

21. The Organization had also improved its co-ordinating mechanisms, inter alia, by developing a United Nations system-wide plan of action on drug abuse control, which would be a concise "hand guide" comprising not only the work currently being carried out but also activities planned for the period 1992-1997. The plan set out current mandates and the activities being undertaken to fulfil them, and mandates which were not being carried out because of insufficient resources. According to conservative estimates, $US 33 million per biennium from regular and extrabudgetary sources would be required for the system as a whole. That figure did not include the resources required for the operational activities of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

22. The current session should reaffirm, at the highest political level, the pivotal role of the United Nations and of the mandates already given to the United Nations system, release the resources needed for the fulfilment of those mandates, and strengthen the role of the Organization through additional mandates.

(Miss Anstee)

23. The draft global programme of action summarized most of the existing mandates and contained a number of new ones, which concentrated on six broad areas: demand reduction; crop substitution; additional mechanisms to prevent the laundering of drug money; the holding of a conference and the preparation of an international agreement on chemical precursors and their control; the establishment of an international criminal court to deal with illicit trafficking across national frontiers; and the strengthening of the United Nations role in law enforcement.

24. In order to implement all those mandates, there was a need for additional resources which, as the Secretary-General had suggested, could come from an exceptional increase in the regular budget as well as from increased extrabudgetary flows.

25. Drug abuse was not an isolated phenomenon; it was intricately linked with other deep-seated problems, such as poverty in both the developing and the developed countries and the need to improve living conditions for people everywhere. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking threatened to divert critically needed funds away from economic and social development. Thus, rather than building homes and schools, countries were forced to build prisons; rather than improving medical care, they must treat babies born addicted; rather than hiring more teachers, they must hire more police.

26. At the same time, the current easing of political and military tensions could have financial repercussions for the fight against drugs. It was estimated that a mere 1 per cent reduction in global defence spending would release $US 10 billion a year, which could be used for efforts to eradicate drug abuse and poverty from the face of the Earth.

27. Mr. HUYGHE-BRAECKMANS (President of the International Narcotics Control Board) said he hoped that the future global programme of action would help Governments to select, in the light of their own needs, activities to reduce the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs. The fight against that scourge required the implementation by all States of the international instruments on the subject and the adoption of the supplementary voluntary measures recommended by the International Narcotics Control Board. Co-operation among States had already prevented tons of drugs from being diverted from licit trade to illicit trafficking.

28. In its 1989 report, the International Narcotics Control Board had recommended that the international community accord priority to: enacting measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs; exchanging information promptly so that drug traffickers could be captured and brought to justice; denying traffickers the possibility of laundering drug money; preventing chemicals, arms, aircraft, ships and the like from falling into the hands of traffickers; providing, upon request, full assistance to States under attack by drug traffickers; affording access to modern reconnaissance technology to permit the location and destruction of illicit crops; providing development assistance to enable farmers to make their living through licit agricultural or other activities; and expanding marketing possibilities and establishing fair export prices.

(Mr. Huyghe-Braeckmans)

29. All those actions needed to be taken in tandem with efforts by the countries in which illicit narcotics production had long been entrenched. Those countries should make every effort to progressively reduce and eventually eliminate such production. The International Narcotics Control Board hoped that Governments might report annually to the Secretary-General on the action they had taken to carry out the recommended priority measures. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs would then be in a position to assess the situation, adjust priorities and recommend ongoing action.

30. The reduction of illicit demand was of the greatest importance, and those countries in which consumption was widespread must understand that that element of the global strategy was critical to the success of activities to combat drug abuse. The very fact that the current special session was taking place bore testimony to the rejection of the views of those who advocated the legalization of some or all illicit drugs. The clear international consensus was that any slackening of drug control efforts was morally indefensible.

31. Mr. RAMOS GALINO (Director of the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs) said that, thanks to its international co-operation in efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking at the regional and interregional levels, the Division of Narcotic Drugs had made a significant contribution to strengthening the regional co-operation mechanisms set up by the United Nations to co-ordinate governmental and non-governmental initiatives in that area. The first Interregional Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, held in 1986, had led to the holding of similar meetings at the regional level in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific. Participants at the Second Interregional Meeting, held in September 1989, had adopted resolutions in support of Colombia, recommended speedy ratification of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and recommended a series of measures to increase the effectiveness of organs responsible for combating illicit drug trafficking. It had also been suggested on that occasion that a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies should be held for Europe, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 43/122 and taking into account existing co-operation in that area among the European countries. That recommendation had been endorsed by the Division of Narcotic Drugs in a draft resolution which had been submitted to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

32. The current political situation was propitious for strengthening regional and interregional co-operation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, particularly co-operation between the ministers of internal affairs, justice and foreign relations of various countries. Such co-operation would become increasingly necessary if one wished to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the 1988 United Nations Convention. The Convention was a particularly useful weapon in countries like Colombia, where the Government was courageously resisting pressures by the drug barons, who were threatening to destabilize the political and legal institutions of the country. The co-ordinated and simultaneous implementation of that instrument by all States would make it possible to uncover and seize property obtained through illicit drug trafficking,

(Mr. Ramos Galino)

arrest the major traffickers, extradite them to countries where legal proceedings had been initiated against them, or try them on the spot when all the necessary proof had been gathered through close international legal co-operation during investigations and throughout the judicial procedure.

33. Furthermore, it was necessary to ensure that the penalties imposed on traffickers were commensurate with the social danger posed by their activities. In that regard, the deprivation of freedom and the confiscation of property obtained by drug trafficking should have a deterrent effect. It was also necessary to provide for the imposition of appropriate administrative and penal sanctions in order to punish officials who took part in such activities. In that connection, it was interesting to note the measures recently taken by the Cuban Government to identify elements that had infiltrated institutions which were of vital importance for State security.

34. For its part, the Division of Narcotic Drugs in 1989 had increased its activities aimed at curbing the illicit demand for drugs. Several meetings of experts on developing community resources in order to prevent and reduce demand, for example, had been organized at the regional level. The Division had also adopted a programme to set up a system for determining the scope and nature of drug abuse at the national level at a meeting of experts on such methods, held in Vienna from 3 to 7 July 1989.

35. The Division of Narcotic Drugs wished to be able to continue implementing a dynamic and imaginative programme and hoped therefore that the political support demonstrated by Governments on various occasions would lead to an increase in their budgetary and extra-budgetary resources commensurate with the gravity of the problem that it had to tackle.

36. Since 1981, a number of strategies and action plans had been the subject of a general consensus and during the current special session the General Assembly would redouble its efforts to draw up a world programme to combat the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so that it could be adopted by consensus. Nevertheless, little would be gained by adopting new plans and entrusting new tasks to United Nations monitoring bodies and Secretariat services if sufficient additional budgetary resources were not allocated to them.

37. Drug abuse harmed the health and well-being of millions of human beings, corrupted their institutions and impeded the economic and social development to which all peoples aspired. More than ever, drugs were debasing, corrupting, enslaving and killing. That was a problem which man had created and which he could therefore solve. The success of that undertaking required the effective and steadfast implementation of the measures provided for under the 1988 United Nations Convention on the question, which would make it possible to reduce gradually and then totally eliminate drug abuse.

38. Mr. SHARMA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that however intensive controls and law enforcement might be, they were not in themselves sufficient to curb drug abuse and that in the past three years considerable attention had therefore been given to the adoption of measures to curb demand. UNESCO for its part was fully prepared to contribute to a United Nations strategy, while at the same time maintaining its specific role, which was to prevent drug abuse through education. For many years it had been stressing the importance of preventive education, advocating the adoption of an interdisciplinary approach in that regard.

39. Since 1970, UNESCO had been undertaking activities aimed at informing and alerting children and young people in school and out of school, who are the main targets of drug traffickers. It facilitated the exchange of information through publications in several languages, organized meetings of experts and seminars at the regional and national level, and provided consultative services and technical assistance to national projects receiving financial support from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC).

40. The UNESCO General Conference considered that a balance must be struck between what was sometimes called the "demystification of drugs" and the desire to promote effective awareness, information and education in the field. Since preventive education was a long-term process whose results could not be readily evaluated, it was not easy to persuade decision-making authorities to undertake such activities and allocate to them the requisite funds. Nevertheless, authentic educational action for young people and adults had proved to be the only way to curb the demand for drugs on a long-term basis.

41. UNESCO had already initiated specific projects, including a joint project with UNFDAC aimed at disseminating information on drugs and developing pedagogical materials. Although the United Nations system had the machinery required to tackle drug-related problems, it was necessary to draw the attention of all Governments to the discrepancy between the mandates given by the Member States to the system and the resources placed at its disposal to carry them out.

42. UNESCO planned to intensify its efforts to increase the volume of information available in the field of drug abuse prevention and establish networks for exchanging information at the international, regional and national levels, research new preventive education techniques to be introduced in school curricula and out-of-school programmes, increase its collaboration with the media in order to launch audio-visual campaigns against drug abuse, strengthen links with interested non-governmental organizations to educate the general public, particularly high-risk groups; and initiate global preventive education programmes.

43. Dr. ABDELMOUMENE (World Health Organization) said that drug abuse had become one of the major causes of health and social problems and undermined the economic stability of whole societies. Nevertheless, the situation was not hopeless. Although drug abuse was increasing throughout the world, trends in that area could be halted and even reversed by timely action. The World Health Organization (WHO) considered that the time had come for pragmatic and effective programmes to turn

(Dr. Abdelmoumene)

back the tide of drug abuse and pledged to intensify its efforts in that regard. The WHO intensified programme of action had three main objectives: first, preventing the spread of drug abuse among individuals and in families, communities and countries; second, developing effective approaches for treating drug dependence and related diseases; and third, collaborating in controlling the supply of licit psychoactive substances.

44. WHO felt that it could achieve those objectives through its unique network of regional offices, country representatives, collaborating centres and expert advisers, which had already enabled it to play a vital role in efforts to halt the spread of AIDS. In the area of prevention, WHO had played a special role in promoting strategies to break the vicious circle of AIDS and drug abuse. It would devote particular attention to those aspects of drug-abuse prevention which would have the greatest impact on rates of HIV infection. WHO would concentrate on improving access to treatment services for all, including drug addicts in prisons. In order to achieve that, it would work with countries to enhance the capacity of their primary health care systems to respond quickly and effectively to the problem of drug abuse.

45. WHO had also intensified its efforts to co-operate with the United Nations system in controlling the supply of licit psychoactive substances. A balance must always be found between control requirements and the medical need for drugs. WHO had the scientific and clinical expertise to evaluate the abuse potential of those substances and assess their therapeutic usefulness. Since new combinations of psychoactive substances were frequently appearing, WHO was also committed to research. That, however, meant, not abstract research, but a search in every branch of science for insights to explain the reasons for the demand for drugs. Those insights would make it possible to adopt strategies for more effective preventive action. Although it was necessary to mobilize additional resources, both the financial and human, WHO felt that immediate action was necessary in order to prevent drug abuse from destroying much of what mankind valued most.

46. Mrs. HARALAMOUS (International Fund for Agricultural Development) said that in poor and rich countries alike drug abuse jeopardized the health, productive role and human potential of millions of people, undermined the integrity of institutions, and disrupted social order. It was shocking to learn that today trade in illegal narcotics was second only to trade in armaments. The vast sums of money involved in illicit drug trafficking had brought political, economic and social instability to many drug-producing and consuming countries. The international community had recognized that both the supply of and demand for drugs had to be reduced and the link between the two, illicit traffic, had to be broken. Although the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was not competent to make recommendations on how to deal with the demand for drugs or illegal drug trafficking, it sought to understand the dynamics of rural poverty and its relation to drug crop production.

47. A large proportion of narcotic drugs were grown by poor farmers in inaccessible and often ecologically degraded areas. Those rural poor had few other

(Mrs. Haralamous)

options than to cultivate narcotic plants, which represented their main source of income. Narcotic plants were doubly attractive for those farmers because they were easy to grow and could be sold to buyers who came and paid cash on the spot. That economic dynamic did not favour the integration of those farmers into the social and economic life of their country. On the contrary, the criminalization of entire communities of rural poor people cut them off radically from normal government services, administration and development assistance. IFAD therefore believed that law-enforcement and preventive-education measures should be accompanied by a direct attack against rural poverty. Poverty-alleviation programmes must provide the producers of narcotic drugs with other sources of income or jobs as well as better social services. All efforts undertaken in this regard must be based on the self-mobilization of the communities. Sanitation, health, family-planning and literacy programmes and the construction of schools and roads would be decisive factors in motivating the people and developing their human potential. Since drug crops were readily marketed on the farm, it was imperative to find markets for new crops and surplus production.

48. IFAD had sought to find effective ways to address those issues in the context of its poverty alleviation programmes. In Latin America, marginal farmers in the highland areas were migrating to the lowlands where they provided the necessary labour for growing coca. IFAD was supporting projects in the highland areas to improve agricultural productivity and promote off-farm activities that would give such groups incentives to stay in their highland homes. In Bolivia, IFAD had already helped finance three such projects. In Peru, it had supported a major rural development project in the Alto Mayo region, which had helped to regularize land titles, promote irrigation and strengthen agricultural support services. There was also a need to develop alternatives to coca cultivation in the lowland areas. That involved the introduction of replacement crops for smallholders and the creation of employment for the landless. The overall success of the plan would depend on the existence of guaranteed markets for the replacement crops. That required close co-ordination between the developing and industrialized countries concerned, on the one hand, and the multilateral development and trade agencies, on the other.

49. In Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Pakistan, IFAD was also preparing projects designed to meet the needs of the traditional narcotic plant growers through co-ordinated rural development efforts. In order to achieve significant results, however, additional resources would be required to support a larger number of projects. It was estimated that, if the peasants who now cultivated coca in Bolivia, Peru and Colombia planted alternative crops, their incomes could be sustained with annual external aid amounting to approximately $260 million. That amount was not unreasonable in the context of the sums being spent by industrialized countries to combat drug consumption. For that purpose, coherent action would be required within the United Nations system affecting areas such as resource transfers and development issues, trade and access to markets, commodity prices and the maintenance of international peace and security.

50. Mr. JOSEPH (United Nations Development Programme) said that during the past decade illicit traffic in drugs had acquired completely new dimensions and that the scale of operations was larger than that of the oil trade. Its increasingly close links to organized crime, violence and terrorism had a devastating effect on the economic and social structures of the countries where most of the illicit production took place. UNDP was particularly concerned at the negative effects of that production in its programme countries. It started from the premise that the illicit production of narcotic drugs was clearly intertwined with the broader and complex aspects of economic and social growth in the countries concerned. The problem could not therefore be viewed in isolation since economic realities, such as pervasive poverty, led farmers to produce the drug. Concerted action to improve the economic base of the supplying countries and greater access to international markets for their alternative products were thus required.

51. In addition to measures aimed at reducing the supply of narcotics, the industrialized countries must urgently take the necessary action to deal with demand. UNDP for its part was executing, in close association with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, a number of projects in Asia and the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, since the highest concentration of its activities in that sector was in the latter region. Those projects sought, in particular, to reduce the economic dependence of farmers on coca production, improve the effectiveness of judicial and law enforcement institutions, discourage the cultivation of opium poppies and ensure the training of personnel working in the field of drug rehabilitation.

52. In view of the dimensions of the drug problem, the United Nations system required much greater resources in order to carry out programmes in that field. Resources alone, however, would not be sufficient and Member States must commit themselves to taking the necessary complementary action to deal with the many facets of the narcotic-drug problem, such as the removal of trade barriers to help the source countries generate alternative export products. UNDP for its part would continue to assist developing countries within its current resources.

53. Mr. TRAGEN (Organization of American States) said that the framework and guidelines of the programme of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) were spelled out in the Inter-American Programme of Action of Rio de Janeiro against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and Trafficking Therein, adopted in April 1986 and approved by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in November 1986. CICAD had been established in November 1986 to develop, co-ordinate, evaluate and monitor the Programme. CICAD had dedicated its first year to reviewing the drug situation in the hemisphere, defining its strategy and identifying the priorities of its Programme, which had begun operations early in 1988. The progress made to date and the setting of priorities for the 1990s would be examined at the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers to be held at Ixtapa (Mexico) in April 1990.

54. The objective of CICAD was the elimination of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse, which threatened political stability, democratic institutions, economic

(Mr. Tragen)

growth and the well-being of the people of the inter-American region. The Commission's strategy was to promote multinational co-operation in order to attack the complex transnational chain of operations that made up drug trafficking. Those operations transcended national boundaries and were dominated by criminal organizations which controlled the world market and reaped enormous profits. CICAD had identified two critical areas in which to begin implementation of the strategy: the first involved reducing demand and the second, enhancing the capacity of Governments to take effective action against criminal syndicates. CICAD believed that all links of the chain - production, manufacturing, transport, marketing and money laundering - should be attacked simultaneously. However, because of a shortage of funds and staff, the Commission had approved five priority lines of action for its initial programme. First, legal development: activities were aimed at helping Member States harmonize national legislation pertaining to illicit trafficking and facilitate the application throughout the region of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; improving the collection, safeguarding and presentation in court of evidence against traffickers; expediting court proceedings; developing appropriate sanctions and penalties against traffickers; and generating public support for legal action against drug traffickers. Under the last-mentioned component, an inter-American expert group was in the process of preparing model regulations and procedures to control the chemical substances, machines and materials used in drug production.

55. Second, prevention education: the goal there was to introduce drug prevention programmes into the schools of the hemisphere. The strategy was designed to help young people deal with their problems without turning to drugs and to mobilize family and community support for school prevention programmes. National drug commissions and ministries of education and health in all member States had been consulted as to their needs. In May 1990, the bases of the long-term inter-American prevention education programme would be developed by the 32 States members of OAS at Quito.

56. Third, community action: such efforts were designed to promote involvement of the private sector in Canada, the United States of America, Latin America and the Caribbean to support or fund public information campaigns and help high-risk groups which the public sector could not serve. CICAD planned to hold the first inter-American teleconference in May 1990, which would allow member States to share experiences about strengthening co-operation among the media and the public and private sectors.

57. Fourth, development of the Inter-American Information System: the Commission had begun to set up a network of 13 regional and subregional organizations which could provide current information to member States and private organizations throughout the region. The Commission's Inter-American Drug Documentation Centre would serve as the network's clearing-house.

58. Fifth, the Inter-American Uniform Statistical System: in order to solve problems posed by the absence of relevant data in member States and the inability

(Mr. Tragen)

to compare available data, the Commission was working with the Pan American Health Organization to upgrade and standardize the collection, processing and publication of statistics on the drug problem. To that end, consultations had been held with some member States. At its seventh session, to be held in Argentina in March 1990, CICAD would consider the results of the special session of the General Assembly and the Cartagena Declaration with a view to implementing them in the region.

59. Mr. SHAHANDEH (International Labour Organisation) said that drug abuse was one of the major threats to mankind since, apart from its dangers to individuals' health and welfare, it reduced their possibilities for development and raised an additional obstacle to constructive development and social progress. ILO was therefore particularly concerned about the impact of drug abuse on the working and living conditions of workers and their families and reaffirmed its intention to mobilize all available resources to support efforts in the international campaign against that problem.

60. ILO activities were currently focused on reducing demand through the development of rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes within the community and sought to prevent and reduce drug abuse in the workplace. It was evident that if there was no demand for drugs, the financial incentives which encouraged their supply would likewise disappear. Recognizing that there was an urgent need to reduce drug supply, ILO was supporting initiatives taken to that end by the United Nations. ILO was also convinced that problems such as poverty, unemployment and social injustice, which were root causes of the demand for drugs, must be urgently attacked.

61. Finally, ILO would endeavour to create the necessary community services and begin information and education activities that would encourage the population to stay drug-free.

62. Mrs. DOZZI (United Nations NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse) recalled that, during a recent major consultation on drugs, non-governmental organizations had raised many points which fell within the framework of the proposed global programme of action. First of all, there was the question of how those organizations could participate and co-operate in the collection and recording of data that would promote an understanding of why people used and became addicted to drugs. The experience acquired by non-governmental organizations in the field was especially helpful in that regard, and those organizations encouraged Governments to co-operate with them in establishing the necessary mechanisms for data collection. The second point concerned the need to support research on the causes and consequences of drug abuse, patterns of drug consumption, treatment and prevention programmes and the contribution that non-governmental organizations could make to research activities. It was also important that exchanges of information should be facilitated between researchers and field workers on the results of research and practical experience.

63. She drew attention to the need to strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations at all levels and to adopt a holistic approach to

(Mrs. Dozzi)

issues, drug-related, taking into account the interaction between the individual, the culture and the community. Many non-governmental organizations were interested in learning about strategies for drug-demand reduction and how they could help to explain the abuse of many substances, illicit and licit. Non-governmental organizations were also concerned with the consequences of alcohol and tobacco abuse and other problems, such as the inhalation of certain products and pesticides among children and youth and the abuse of prescribed medications, particularly psychotropic substances.

64. It would be helpful if the model provided by the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, could be followed and international non-governmental organizations were used to reach national organizations involved in community-level prevention and care activities within the context of the global programme of action against illicit narcotic drugs.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.